

# Parks Comprehensive Plan Task Force

## Meeting Summary February 7, 2007

**Task Force members present:** R.D. Brown, Chuck Evens, Erick Goodlow, Steve Gordon (chair), Maggie Lindorfer, Brian Pelc, Pete Regnier, Kathy Schubert, Carrie Wasley (vice chair), Jenny Winkelman

**Members absent:** John O'Connell (excused), Victor Vang

**Staff:** Vince Gillespie, Mike Hahm, Kathy Korum, Rich Lallier, Jody Martinez, Jess Rosenfeld, Ruth Schumi, Eric Thompson, Jason Wirka

### Schedule

The task force opened the meeting with a discussion of the schedule. Staff proposed meeting twice a month to allow the task force time to reflect on the panel discussions. The task force decided to continue meeting once a month, but to lengthen the meetings to three hours. Meetings will begin at 4 and end at 7 p.m.

### Discussion of parks service providers panel

The task force discussed the parks service providers panel using the comparison table provided by staff.

*Governmental structure:* The Park and Recreation Board generally functions very well in its advisory role to the City Council, although its role may change as it administers the park dedication ordinance. The task force would like to see the ordinances that lay out the Board's responsibility.

*Taxing and bonding authority:* This issue will be discussed at more length during the resource panel.

*Partnerships:* The task force reviewed the current language on partnerships in the Comprehensive Plan, and Jody Martinez noted that the current policies have been interpreted very broadly, notably by the developer of the proposed Bridges project. A few changes to the current language were proposed.

- Add language saying that any partnerships should have public benefit.
- Add a policy saying that revenue generated in one place should be put back into that place instead of being placed in a general fund.
- Add a policy recommending periodic audits of operations in order to ensure that operations reflect the standards of the City.
- Add language recommending that partnerships may be used for construction and capitol costs.

*Naming rights:* While naming rights can be helpful in generating revenue, the task force will have to weigh the potential benefits against concerns about the loss of public accessibility.

*Volunteers:* The current Comprehensive Plan policies on volunteers will be discussed in more detail after the volunteers panel, but the task force had some preliminary thoughts.

- The plan should say that the volunteer program should be expanded, not just improved.
- The task force will discuss whether a policy should be added to fund the position of a volunteer coordinator.
- Add a policy to pursue partnerships and coordinate with existing volunteer organizations (like Great River Greening).
- Add a policy to develop a partnership with a grant based on volunteer hours.
- Add a policy on the importance of screening and background checks for volunteers working with vulnerable populations.

*Safety:* This issue will be discussed in more detail after the safety panel, but the Comprehensive Plan should promote the innovative use of technology in ensuring the safety of parks and recreation facilities.

**NEXT MEETING:** February 21, 4 – 6:30 p.m., at McDonough Recreation Center (1544 Timberlake Road)